

THE DODHH BULLETIN

Mission: The Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing with the guidance of the Advisory Council shall affirm the indisputable right of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons to secure effective communication.

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Division on Deafness Renamed Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing

In the fall of 2001, the Division on Deafness (DOD) Advisory Council, with leadership and support from the DOD staff, petitioned Governor John Engler to grant a change in its name to reflect more accurately the entire population of people with hearing loss served by the Division. The terms "deaf and hard of hearing" are politically correct and supported by the National Association of the Deaf and the national/international organization, Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. The Governor responded to this request by changing the name of the DOD to the Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DODHH). Executive Order 2002 - 10 became effective July 8, 2002. The DOD Advisory Council on Deafness was renamed the Advisory Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The term "deafness" is commonly interpreted to refer to persons who are deaf and gives the impression that services are not available to people who are hard of hearing. Historically, partial hearing loss has been misunderstood, the effects underestimated and undervalued, and services to this population have been delivered through a "deaf model." This approach serves to negate not only the needs of hard of hearing people but the person who is hard of hearing as well.

Both deaf and hard of hearing populations have similar but unique communication needs. When addressing these needs it is important to remember that "one size does not fit all." The Advisory Council recognized the different needs and approaches required by the deaf and hard of hearing communities and requested the name change to reflect this understanding. Changing the name to DODHH clearly communicates that the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing serves all people with hearing loss.

Commentary:

In the past twelve years that I have been associated with the DOD, first as a consumer, then as a council member and now as Hard of Hearing Specialist, I have witnessed a growing understanding and respect between the deaf and hard of hearing communities. I personally credit the leaders of the Michigan Deaf Association and Michigan Self Help for Hard of Hearing People for breaking down barriers and appreciating each other's world. I believe Michigan is ahead of many states in this regard and encourage our leaders to continue to find creative ways to appreciate and respect our differences while working together regarding mutual needs and concerns. In the unity of our spirit we will be able to accomplish much for deaf and hard of hearing people in Michigan.

Ann Liming, Hard of Hearing Specialist, DODHH

DODHH

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Advisory Council

Christopher Irwin, Chair	Adrian, MI
Nancy Asher	Ypsilanti, MI
Brenda Cartwright	Okemos, MI
Sheryl Emery	Detroit, MI
Michelle Graham	Clarkston, MI
Brett Holt	Midland, MI
Celeste Johnson	Grand Rapids, MI
Arlyn Meyerson	Farmington, MI
Thomas Rojeski	Mt. Pleasant, MI
Brian Sheridan	Ishpeming, MI
Rose Smith	Westphalia, MI
Linda Sykora	Burlington, MI
Juanita Wikman	Muskegon, MI



Director's Corner

By Chris Hunter

This is the first issue of the DODHH BULLETIN since the Winter 2001 issue was printed. This issue contains news and information that has taken place over the past year which staff believes is important to you. I hope you will find the information useful.

Name Change

The biggest event that took place this past year, 2002, is that our name was changed from Division on Deafness (DOD) to Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DODHH). Although this change took place in 2002, DODHH has always served individuals with all degrees of hearing loss. We want to thank Governor John Engler and his staff and Family Independence Agency for supporting our name change. DODHH is now in its 23rd year since its revitalization and in its 65th year since its establishment by the 1937 Michigan Legislature.

Early Retirement

Under the state early retirement plan, the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns (MCDC)/Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing is losing three staff persons. Cristina Franco retired on October 1, 2002. She served as secretary/administrative assistant since January of 2000. Diane Britt served as legal analyst for both MCDC and DODHH for the past 11 years. She retired on November 1, 2002. Gerry Mutty, Executive Director (ED) of MCDC, who is my supervisor, is retiring on May 1, 2003. Gerry has been with MCDC for the past 8 years and served as Deputy Director before becoming the ED. He has devoted 29 years of his life to public service. Gerry has been a great support and advocate for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. We thank Christina, Diane and Gerry for their service and support and we wish them well in their retirement.

Video Relay Services (VRS)

Elsewhere in this issue you will find that DODHH is one of three locations in Michigan that has a public VRS phone. The VRS phone is the beginning of many changes in the way deaf and hard of hearing people will live their lives. Accessible telecommunications help people who are deaf or hard of hearing to communicate easier with other people. You will soon be able to communicate face-to-face from your home with another person. Do not be afraid to try something new! You will like it after you try it at one of the office locations. (See related article, page 8)

Teacher Certification Test

Recently, Dr. David Stewart, Professor of Michigan State University Deaf Education Program and I had the opportunity to meet with people at the Michigan Department of Education about the teacher certification test accessibility issue. Deaf and hard of hearing people who couldn't pass the test, since some test questions contain words understood only by persons who can hear, had raised concerns. The Department of Education agreed to involve us on a committee to review the test and recommend changes in the knowledge base standards. Meanwhile, they will allow for an interpreter to interpret test questions and choice of answers. Michigan public and residential schools need more teachers who are deaf or hard of hearing as role models.



The DODHH staff wishes you a happy 2003.



Welcome New Advisory Council Members



**Brett
Holt**

Brett Holt lives in Midland, Michigan. He attended schools throughout the United States and in Belgium, Iran, and a British boarding school in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is a former student at Texas A&M University and a ten year veteran of the Navy. He is currently an officer of the American Legion.

Brett is a cochlear implant user for the past two years. He is a member of the national/international organization, Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) and active at the state level in Michigan SHHH (MI-SHHH). He is a past president of the Hear Here Mid-Michigan SHHH Chapter. Brett is a Hearing Technology Resource Specialist for MI-SHHH and gives presentations on hearing assistive technology in his local community.

A former employee of the Center for Independent Living of Mid-Michigan, Brett currently works as a cemetarian. His community achievements include assisting the city of Midland with purchase of an infra-red system for the local court house and bringing open captioned movies to a local theatre.

Advisory Council Meetings 2003

February 21, 2003

**Best Western Midway Motor
Lodge – Lansing**

May 2, 2003

Holiday Inn Express, Okemos

October 3, 2003

Holiday Inn Express, Okemos

*All Council meetings begin at
10 am and end at 3 pm.*



**Juanita
Wikman**

Juanita Wikman is a retired nurse who developed a gradual hearing loss in her mid twenties. She now devotes her time to educating and advocating for people with hearing loss in the western Michigan area and at the state level. Juanita is a member of the national/international organization, Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) and is a past president of the Westshore (Muskegon) SHHH Chapter. She served as both secretary and vice president of the Michigan SHHH (MI-SHHH) state level organization before taking over her current position as president. Juanita is also a co-director of the MI-SHHH State Organization.

Trained by MI-SHHH as a Hearing Technology Resource Specialist, Juanita spends much of her time giving presentations to local and statewide groups on hearing assistive technology. She works tirelessly with other hard of hearing advocates in her local community to achieve accessibility for people with hearing loss. She and her cohorts are accredited with access in the Muskegon performing arts complex, public school system and the local court system. Juanita was awarded the Outreach Award from Michigan SHHH in 1999.

In addition to her advocacy efforts, Juanita volunteers for the American Red Cross and is a mentor for the 1st through 4th grade students in the Help One Student to Succeed (HOST) Program at a local elementary school.



**Linda
Sykora**

Linda Sykora has been deaf all of her life. She graduated from the Indiana School for the Deaf and is a graduate of Kellogg Community College with a major in Communication Arts. She has a Bachelor's Degree from Olivet College where she majored in Communication Arts-Public Relations. She is currently taking Post Education Training for the Deaf (PET-D 2002).

Linda is currently employed as Director of DEAFLINK, a non-profit organization located in Battle Creek, Michigan. Her responsibilities include advocating for issues related to deafness, coordinating community education related to deafness, interpreter referral and sign language instruction.

Linda has been married for 18 years and has two teenage children.

It is always a pleasure to welcome

Thanks to Retiring Advisory Council Members

new members to the DODHH Advisory Council. We look forward to the insight into hearing loss issues and direction that they will provide to staff. At the same time, it is sad to lose members from the council. Their contributions have directly improved the quality of life for people with hearing loss. DODHH staff extend their thanks and appreciation to the following Council Members who have recently left the Council: **Marika Blumerick** (ShelbyTownship), **Jeanne Straub** (Lowell) and **Ronald Swartz**, (Clarkston).

2001 - 2002 in Review

Michigan Youth Leadership Forum



Youth from the 2001 MYLF sitting on the lawn of the State Capital

The summers of 2001 & 2002 marked the second & third annual Michigan Youth Leadership Forums (MYLF) which were implemented by the Commission on Disability Concerns and their local partners. MYLF is a unique career leadership training program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. By serving as delegates from their communities at a four-day event in their state capital, young people with disabilities cultivate leadership, citizenship and social skills.

Approximately 30 youths, along with mentors, program assistants and staff, participate in this event each year. Youth delegates learn about disability history and self-advocacy in employment, education and community situations. They are given hands-on experience with assistive technology and through role-playing learn their rights to access provided by the ADA. After learning how a bill becomes a law, they choose an issue to debate at the state capital. This experience is always a highlight of the four-day event.

Entertainment throughout the week provides opportunity for social interaction. Attendees celebrate their accomplishments at a farewell luncheon held the last day of the forum. DODHH staff participate in the planning process for the forum and assume responsibility for various aspects of the program.

Deafblind Summer Program

The DeSales Center in Brooklyn, Michigan was once again the site for the annual Deafblind workshops held in 2001 and 2002. Deafblind consumers who face similar challenges in their lives are provided the opportunity to meet and socialize with others, learn strategies for independence and participate in craft and waterfront activities. During the weekend interpreters and support service persons learn through hands-on experience a variety of skills necessary to work with Deafblind consumers. The workshop is jointly presented by: Self-Help for Independence in Michigan; Equalizing the Deafblind (SHI-M=DB); Holley Ear Institute; the Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; and the Family Independence Agency's Deafblind unit of the Commission for the Blind, and Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing People. SHI-M=DB members have taken the lead role the past two years in both organizing and conducting the workshop. Participants who attend the workshops are given the opportunity to hear outstanding presenters from the American Association for the Deafblind and from the Helen Keller National Center.

Each year a theme is chosen for the workshop and a craft activity is designed around the theme. In 2001, the Theme was, "Free to be me...One Step at a Time." Participants who were Deafblind made stepping stones with colorful ceramic glass embedded in cement to create individual designs. The stepping stones are displayed around flowerbeds that landscape the meeting lodge at the DeSales Center. For 2002, the theme, "Butterflies are Free and So Are We," was chosen. The craft activity involved assembling and painting butterfly houses which participants took home with them. The highlight of this year's event was the closing ceremony in which the participants went outside where live butterflies flew in a cage covered with netting. Each participant who was Deafblind was given a butterfly in a folded piece of paper to be set free when the signal to do so was given. After reading an old Indian Legend, Jill Gaus, Chair of the planning committee and President of SHI-M, gave the signal to free the butterflies. Everyone present enjoyed the beauty of the butterflies lifting upward and lighting on flowers and shrubs nearby. The symbolism of the freedom of the butterflies was empowering to those striving to find independence in spite of their vision and hearing losses.



Jeff Bohrman & Sharon Collins, by butterfly cage



An Indian Legend says that if someone desires a wish to come true, they must capture a butterfly and whisper that wish to it. Since they make no sound, they can not tell the wish to anyone but the Great Spirit. So, by making the wish and by releasing the butterfly, it will be taken to the heavens and be granted.

2001 - 2002 in Review, Continued

2001 MDA Conference Highlights

The Michigan Deaf Association (MDA) held its 48th Biennial Conference in Troy on September 27 - 29, 2001. Over 220 persons registered. This was the first conference that involved the state's five other major organizations on the planning committee. The five organizations included Michigan Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf, Michigan Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Michigan Chapter of American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association, Michigan Chapter of American Sign Language Teacher Association and Detroit Black Deaf Advocates. Each organization contributed speakers for workshops. Deaf CAN, Statewide Services for Hearing Impaired and Deaf Women Advocacy Services also sponsored the workshops. There were more than 15 exhibitors, including a Deaf artist from Italy.



General Motors, Ameritech, Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing, and other non-profit agencies helped fund the conference. MDA honored SBC-Ameritech as the Employer of the Year for hiring and promoting Deaf employees in professional positions, including management and communication technician.

Thomas Bull, author of CODA articles and books, was the keynote speaker during the luncheon. Ken Glickman gave a hilarious performance as Prof. Glick in Deafology 201.

The next MDA conference will be August 21st through 23rd of 2003 at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

For current information regarding MDA activities, visit their website at: <http://www.mideaf.org/>



Ken Glickman performs at

Michigan Self Help for Hard of Hearing People Technology Expo III Highlights



On April 26 & 27, 2002, Michigan SHHH held their biennial Hear Here III Technology and Expo at the Valley Plaza Resort in Midland, Michigan. Presentations included: access to the court system by Brian Sheridan, attorney and DODHH Advisory Council member; cochlear implants by Dr. Terry Swolan, Director U of M Cochlear Implant Program; advocacy, rights and entitlements by Tim Creagan, former SHHH Public Policy Director; and latest hearing aid technology & tips for selection by Tom O'Connor, Audiologist, U of M Hospital. Rocky Stone, founder and director emeritus of SHHH also addressed the attendees. Rich Baldwin, former special education teacher and administrator and author of the Louis Searing & Maggie McMillan Mystery Series, provided the banquet entertainment.



Liz Kobylak, State Coordinator and State Office Co-Director MI-SHHH, Rocky Stone, Founder and Executive Director Emeritus SHHH, Janet Haines & Juanita Wikman, Co-Directors MI-SHHH, Susan Matt, immediate past president SHHH national Board of Trustees.

Vendors of hearing assistive technology and service providers in the field of hearing loss were on hand with displays and to assist attendees personally. Approximately 200 attendees enjoyed the event and left with valuable information to enrich their lives.

Hear Here IV will be held April 23-24, 2004, and will again be at the Valley Plaza in Midland.

For current information regarding MI-SHHH activities, visit their website at: <http://www.mi-shhh.org/>

Interpreters – This News is for You

Maureen Wallace, State Interpreter Coordinator

KUDOS to SHIM=DB

Thanks for a wonderful Deafblind workshop. The weekend was full of fun and fellowship and special events. The audio loop system provided access for many of the participants who were hard of hearing. The platform interpreters and working interpreters were great. The massages and butterfly release was extra special for those of us who participated. (See related article on page 4)

KUDOS to MIRID

MIRID and the planning committee did a wonderful job hosting the Region III conference last August. With so many workshops it was hard to choose which one to attend. It was especially nice to see more deaf and hard of hearing people attend or present workshops.

INTERPRETER APPEARANCE

As the State Interpreter Coordinator, I often receive calls from agencies, employers, and deaf persons asking what the Code of Ethics says about interpreter appearance. The Code of Ethics states that Interpreters shall function in a manner appropriate to the situation and shall strive to maintain high professional standards. I brought this issue up with the DODHH advisory council's communication committee. They came up with the following guidance compiled from several leading interpreter textbooks used currently in the field:

- ◆ It is recommended that interpreters maintain a low profile.
- ◆ In practice, a low profile means dressing somewhat less formally than the most formally dressed participant, but certainly more formally dressed than the informal participant.
- ◆ Even more explicitly, wearing any but the simplest and minimal amount of jewelry can draw visual attention to the interpreter and obstruct the viewer's ease of reception.
- ◆ For example, multiple rings, and earrings draw unnecessary attention to the interpreter, as do body piercings and visible tattoos.
- ◆ Similarly, loud patterns, prints or colors may strain the eyes or distract the vision of the deaf or hard of hearing viewer.
- ◆ For female interpreters, a low profile means one's makeup should be moderate, nails should be kept

trimmed, and if used, polish should be natural.

- ◆ For male interpreters, a low profile implies that facial hair should be well trimmed to permit ease of speechreading.
- ◆ Hair should be kept away from the face and honestly assessed for possible distraction level.
- ◆ Scents of any kind should be closely monitored as they can be distracting or offensive to other participants.

These are just a few specific examples of the many little details to be attended to for a truly professional appearance.

Resource: "Interpreting An Introduction" by Nancy Frishberg (page 71), "Sign Language Interpreting: A Basic Resource Book" by Sharon Neumann Solow (page 29), and "Sign Language Interpreting: Exploring Its Art and Science" by Stewart, Schein, Cartwright (page 63).

2003 INTERPRETER DIRECTORY

The 2003 edition of the TTY Service and Interpreter Directory will be available in both hard copy and on-line early in 2003. Staff have tried to make the Interpreter Directory more user friendly. You will notice interpreters will be listed under the certification held, and region of residence. Asterisks (*) indicate the interpreter is willing to travel. RID and NAD interpreters will be listed in this directory as nationally certified interpreters, and QA interpreters will be listed as state certified as a QA I, II, or III. There will be an index at the end of the directory to locate interpreters by their last name. For the on-line version, visit: mcdc-dodhh.org and go to Forms & Publications.

Reminder:

There are certified interpreters who have chosen not to be listed in the directory. These interpreters do have current certification cards, so be sure to ask to see the current card when they arrive for an assignment.



Leave No Child Behind

July 11-13, 2003

Interpreters – This News is for You, Continued...

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The act is intended to reform the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The act redefines the federal role in K-12 education and hopefully will close the achievement gap between disadvantaged and minority students and their peers. Reforms are based on four basic principles: stronger accountability for results; increased flexibility and local control; expanded options for parents; and emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work.

There is a paraprofessional section that requires at least 2 years of study at a college or university, or an associate's or higher degree, or meeting a rigorous standard of quality that can be demonstrated through formal academic assessment. Paraprofessionals hired after Jan 1, 2002 must meet the newer requirements. Those hired prior to Jan 1, 2002 will have until 2006 to meet the new requirements.

Translators are mentioned under this section. The DODHH is working on getting clarification from the Department of Education on how this impacts educational interpreters. When DODHH receives clarifications on how the Department will interpret the federal guidelines, we will let you know. In the meantime, **please be vigilant in obtaining continuing education units, consider taking college classes towards a degree, and keep in touch with your Special Education Directors for further clarification or guidance.** DODHH has already heard of some schools refusing to hire paraprofessionals who do not have 2 years of college. Watch for further clarifications when available.



WORKSHOPS COMING IN 2003

June 22-26, 2003	MI Youth Leadership Forum (Lansing)
July 11-13, 2003	DODHH Silent Retreat (Roscommon)
July 27- Aug. 1, 2003	RID Conference, (Chicago, Illinois)
Sept. 11-14, 2003	MI Deafblind Workshop (Brooklyn)



Congratulations Award Winners!!

Brenda Cartwright

MIRID 2001 Agnes Foret Interpreter of the Year Award

Chris Hunter

Appreciation for Devoted & Invaluable Service To MDA Award 2001

Gwen Ives

Student at Michigan Career & Technical Institute (MCTI) received Student of the Month Award for February 2001, and Perfect Attendance Award, Academic Award and Merit Award

Jill Gaus

MI-SHHH Outstanding Outreach Award 2002
Michigan Commission for the Blind-Vocational Rehabilitation Services Recipient of the Year Award

Dr. Hal Bate

Outstanding Audiologist Award

Cindy Shapiro

MI-SHHH Outstanding Hearing Technology Resource Specialist Award 2002

Al Buck & John Carey

MI-SHHH Outstanding Support Award 2002

Ann Liming

MI-SHHH Lifetime Achievement Award 2002

Helen Boucher

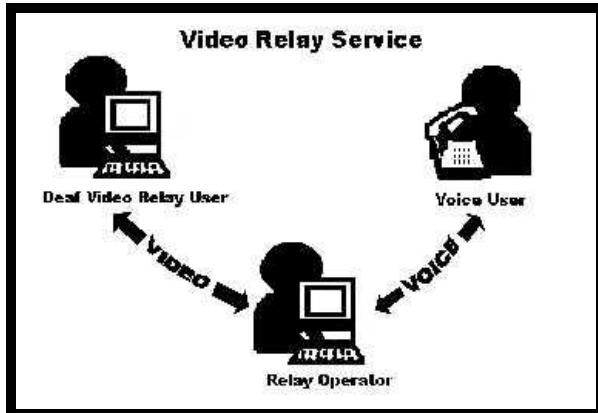
John Claveau Interpreter Award 2002

Congratulations To:

Brenda Cartwright – For publication of a textbook on Fingerspelling

Brian Sheridan – For contributions to the State Bar of Michigan Open Justice Commission – A Report on Access to the Legal System in Michigan for Persons with Disabilities. To order or view, see: <http://www.michbar.org/oj/content.html>

VIDEO RELAY SERVICES OPERATING AT THREE LOCATIONS



Video Relay Service (VRS) allows a relay user to communicate in American Sign Language (ASL) via videoconference equipment to a sign language interpreter, who voices the signed message to a standard telephone user in spoken English. The interpreter then relays the voice message back to the caller using sign language. VRS combines videoconferencing and Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) to make it possible for ASL users to communicate more naturally than with traditional relay service, which requires the use of a TTY. All VRS calls are strictly confidential.

For Information: A 15 minute TTY call can be shortened to 6.5 minutes using the VRS. Calls will soon be able to be made on the internet.

Time-Saving Tips for Using Video Relay Service: Have the area code and telephone number ready when you call VRS. If you think you might get an answering machine when you call, and you don't want the greeting relayed word-for-word, ask the Relay Operator to either summarize the message or simply ignore it, so you can leave your message. Your call will be announced to the called party as a relay call unless you instruct the Relay Operator otherwise.

Directory Assistance: For directory assistance, call Video Relay Service and provide the area code of the state you are calling followed by 555-1212.

Emergency Assistance: In the event of an emergency, if you use a TTY, you should call 911 directly to save critical time.

Video Relay Service is authorized by the State of Michigan and there is no charge for dialing the toll-free number. Currently, all long distance calls are free, but there may be charges in the near future.

Helpful Tips

- Wear solid colors.
- Have the telephone number ready.
- Spell words or say numbers slowly.
- Limit body movements to keep the picture clear and sharp.
- Do not sign "Go Ahead" while using VRS.



Video Relay Call Center – DODHH

Call Center Locations

Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing

320 N. Washington Square, Ste. 250
Lansing, MI 48913
877-499-6232 V/TTY

Communication Access Center For The Deaf and Hard of Hearing

1631 Miller Rd.
Flint, MI
800-466-7744 V/TTY

Deaf C.A.N.

2111 Orchard Lake Rd.
Sylvan Lake, MI
248-332-3323 V/TTY

Calls can be made Monday – Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Centers are closed on Holidays. Call ahead to make sure the agency is open.

Michigan Deaf & Hard of Hearing Coalition Designs Website

CONNECT TO: E-MICHIGAN DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

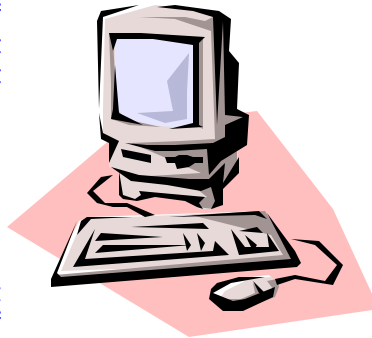
your link to information...

The Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People is a membership organization made up of agencies and organizations serving people throughout Michigan who have a hearing loss. The mission of the Coalition is to provide a forum to promote networking, communication, information sharing, collaboration, and service delivery through the mutual efforts of its many members. Currently there are more than 40 organizational members in the Coalition.

In September of 2000, the Coalition was given the opportunity to develop and implement an innovative new program that would touch the lives of Michigan's Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens through the use of technology. Through the generous support of Ameritech, a committee was put together to develop an Internet website that would provide access to information, for and about deaf and hard of hearing people.

Key features of the website include:

- ♦ Organized into sections that were selected on the basis of who is asking the questions, and the type of information the committee thought would be relevant.
- ♦ A listing of each section covered in a frame at the side of the page. For ease of reference, the frame appears in each of the sections.
- ♦ Sections include: Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Hearing People; Seniors; Youth; Parents; Interpreters; Assistive Devices; Agencies; ASL & Deaf Culture; Health Care; Education; About Us.
- ♦ Information has been provided by people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and who either represent themselves or an organization, teachers, parents, physicians, or professional organizations.
- ♦ The committee that oversees the EMichigan Deaf and Hard of Hearing People website will screen materials for accuracy and authenticity.



To Access the website:

www.michdhh.org

- ♦ The intent of the project is to provide information in an accessible format. Text Only – versions are available.

The Committee consists of Chris Hunter, Tim Johnston, Ann Liming, Marcy Colton, Jody Smith, and Billy Schwall (retired from committee when he moved from Michigan).

Tim Johnston serves as the webmaster, with the expertise, training and computer capability to fulfill the technology aspects of the webmaster position.

Jon Hall is the managing editor of the content, is a free-lance writer for the Boston Globe, and is able to bring quality material to the site.

The project will open training sessions on how to use the website and how to use the internet. These sessions will focus on deaf and hard of hearing people and will be geared to their communication needs.

For more information, contact:
**Michigan Coalition for Deaf &
Hard of Hearing People**
517-487-0066 TTY/Voice
1-800-Your Ear
Yourear@msu.edu

***Mary Roehr, Statewide
Associations Director at SBC
Ameritech, has been a tremendous
asset to the committee.
The Coalition thanks Mary for her
support and guidance.***

People with Hearing Loss in the News...

Nan Asher

Featured presenter at Disability & Entrepreneurship Summit

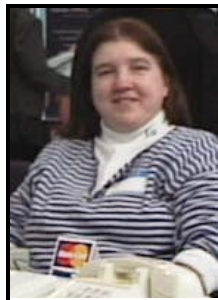
Nan Asher, DOD Advisory Council member and owner of Hearing Technology Resources, LLC based in Ypsilanti, was a featured speaker for the Disability & Entrepreneurship Summit held January 10, 2002 in Washington, D.C. Nan was one of three Entrepreneurs nationwide with a disability who was invited to speak at the Summit which was hosted by Abilities Fund, a national nonprofit organization contracted as part of the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities. Abilities Fund promotes career development for people with disabilities and supports entrepreneurship as a viable option for those who want to start their own businesses.

Asked to speak about how she decided to go into business for herself, Nan credited participation in ADA training conducted by Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) for bringing about change in her life and for eventually leading her to begin her own business. She acknowledged that a \$5000 grant from Michigan Rehabilitation Services, the support of the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living and a bank loan all made it possible for her to start her business.

The audience at the Summit consisted of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors, venture capitalists, banks seeking to expand their target loan populations, and government officials who oversee disability programs.

At the end of her presentation, Nan was recognized not only for being a business woman but also a teacher who takes advantage of opportunities to teach people. Abilities Fund facilitator, Patti Lind, noted that the audience had learned a lot and that it is obvious why Nan is successful. Nan felt honored to be profiled as an Entrepreneur and to be an invited presenter at this conference.

Nan Asher with a technology display at the Summit



Jill Gaus

A Plan That Backfired

Wanting to learn about fire safety in the home, the Jackson Area Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) group invited a local firefighter to one of their meetings as a guest speaker. Firefighter Steve Rudolph told the group of the fire department's goal to place a free smoke detector in every home in Jackson County. What the fire department didn't consider was that people who have a hearing loss often cannot hear the sound of a smoke detector and thus require a flashing light to warn them of danger in their immediate environment. Mr. Rudolph was willing to learn from Jill, with the assistance of Nan Asher, owner of Hearing Technology Resources, LLC, about special alerting devices that warn people with hearing loss about emergencies in their homes. This led to a partnership between the Jackson SHHH group, the Jackson Fire Department and disAbility Connections.

The Jackson Fire Department and Jill teamed together to submit a grant to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for \$40,000 to purchase special alerting devices for Jackson County people with hearing loss. The grant will be overseen by disAbility Connections. Jill will assist in training members of the Fire Department and civilians who want to participate in conducting in-home surveys and installing the equipment. She will address: issues encountered by people who are deaf or hard of hearing; assistive listening devices; and proper use of interpreters.

Deaf/HH Jackson County Residents

To obtain a **free** smoke detector, contact:

disAbility Connections, Inc.
409 Linden Ave.
Jackson MI 49203
Phone: 517-782-6054
Fax: 517-782-3118



*Jill Gaus
President of
SHI-M=DB
and immediate past
president of Jackson
SHHH Chapter*

People with Hearing Loss in the News



Dawn Thomas First Deafblind Person To Have Own Vending Stand

Dawn Thomas is a young woman who has been Deafblind since birth. She grew up in Bay City, MI, and graduated from the Michigan School For The Deaf in 1986.

Dawn has always wanted to own a small business so was excited when her Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Dee Robertson, told her about a program called Business Enterprise Program (BEP). Dawn is the first Deafblind person to be in the program and hopes that more people who are Deafblind will follow her in this adventure.

Dawn shares that being in the program was a challenge for her as well as for the BEP. She was required to stay at the Michigan Commission for The Blind Training Center (MCBTC) for seven weeks. This was followed by a four-week period of on-the-job training and then she returned to MCBTC for two more weeks of training. Eventually she was placed in Lansing for four more weeks of on-the-job training. Dawn now has her own snackbar/vending area in the Lansing Grandview Plaza Building.

An active member of SHI-M=DB, Dawn is the newly elected Vice President. She is currently serving her second year as a member of the Planning Committee for the Deafblind Workshop.



Bob Wilkinson
Successful Business Man

Bob Wilkinson retired after being employed for 25 years at Michigan State University in East Lansing as a printer. In February of 2002, he used his retirement funds to purchase Mark's Pizza.

a 15 year-old business in Okemos. Bob keeps very busy with the management of his pizza business. He employs and supervises 8 part-time employees who are hearing.

A one-half page add in the yellow pages of the telephone book advertises that Mark's Pizza has

Item continued at bottom of this page in column 2



Christine Arnold
Changing Attitudes About People
With Disabilities

Christine Arnold, a special education major at Central Michigan University, has a strong desire to improve negative opinions about people with disabilities.

To accomplish this, early in 2002 Christine used a disability awareness program for elementary students with 4th graders at the Rosebush Elementary School just north of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Her purpose in using the program, which was produced by the Easter Seals Society, was to assess its impact on the opinions of non-disabled students towards persons with disabilities. The program is based on the belief that after students gain information and understanding about others, they will feel more comfortable with each other and themselves.

Each week Christine would speak to about 45 students about a different type of disability. For each disability she would explain possible causes, provide simulation activities, and highlight the fact that children, with or without disabilities, are similar in many ways. When teaching about hearing impairments, Christine introduced the students to speech reading, sign language, fingerspelling and body language as methods of communication. Using the "Friends Who Care" videotape, she simulated what it would sound like if the students had a variety of hearing impairments or a hearing aid. Each week she also supported her teaching with a guest speaker who had the particular impairment being studied at the time.

Prior to completion of the study, Christine was already seeing a positive improvement in the students' opinions about people with disabilities. Students were using person first language comfortably and making positive comments during discussions.

Bob Wilkinson, Continued...

“The BEST pizza in town!” The business offers both free delivery and inside dining.

Bob graduated from the Michigan School for the Deaf in 1968. He is a good example of a business owner who does well in spite of his disability.



Salvation Army Harbor Lights Celebrates 10 Years of Service

The Salvation Army Harbor Light (SAHL) Substance Abuse Program for Deaf / Hard of Hearing People recently celebrated 10 years of service. On September 14, 2002, SAHL welcomed past clients, employees and friends to an old-fashioned "Family Picnic" complete with fantastic food, relay races, the "elephant game" and a water balloon toss. The SAHL family celebrated the "Joy" of living a sober life by honoring the people who made this program possible. Plaques were awarded to: the late Brenda Joy Smith for her vision, giving spirit and dedication; and to the Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People for their ongoing dedication and support.

Harbor Light opened its doors on July 20, 1992 in Monroe Michigan. SAHL offers a 49 day Intensive Outpatient Program complete with dorm housing for those who come a long distance to take advantage of the program. Deaf / Hard of Hearing people come from all over the state to Harbor Light because it is the only program in Michigan for Deaf / Hard of Hearing people. People are referred by the courts, probation departments, agencies, friends or themselves to help them to stop using drugs.

When this program began it was identified as "the place of new beginnings" and because of the hard work and dedication of past and present staff they have witnessed many lives changed and many "new beginnings". Harbor Light celebrates those "new beginnings" everyday when new people come into the program and want to improve their lives. Congratulations Harbor Light on 10 years of service and good luck to you for many more years to come.



Pictured: Renee Shaw, Executive Director; Helen Shiemke-Jones, Outreach Coordinator; Cassie Florian, Clinical Therapist; and Jane Budd Case Manager/Interpreter.

For information contact SAHL at:
734-457-4340 V or 734-242-8012 TTY



Michigan Assistive Technology (AT) Loan Fund

An Assistive Technology (AT) Loan Fund has been established by the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) to help people with disabilities purchase assistive technology devices and services. The program provides low-cost financing that allows for greater access, increased mobility, enhanced communication and job opportunities. UCP Michigan, The Financial Health Credit Union and Centers for Independent Living have joined together to offer this program to persons with disabilities and their family members.

What can I use an AT loan for?

Loans are considered for the purchase of assistive technology devices and services, including modification of vehicles and homes. Loans may also cover cost of training, warranties and service agreements. For persons with hearing loss, the AT Loan fund can be used to cover the cost of hearing aids and assistive listening, telecommunication and alerting devices. It may also be used to help defray the costs of surgical procedures, the outcome of which is to improve the ability to communicate.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any person who is a resident of the State of Michigan and who has a disability may apply. Older persons who need assistive technology due to age related changes may also apply. Family members may apply on behalf of children or other family members with disabilities as long as the device or service is for the use or accommodation of the person with the disability. Applicants must be a member of the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (\$5) and deposit one share to open an account at the Financial Health Credit Union (\$5).

How much can I borrow?

There is no minimum amount; the maximum amount is \$20,000. The ability to repay the amount requested will help determine the approval of the loan.

What is the interest rate on a loan?

The interest rate is based on the prime rate of interest in effect on the day the Credit Union receives a loan application. These rates change, so when applying, ask for the current rate. The rate in effect at the time your loan closes is fixed for the duration of the loan.

Continued on page 15

A Service of Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing

\$150 for
2 Nights
4 Meals
Classes
Fun

2003 DODHH SILENT RETREAT

July 11-13, 2003

Roscommon, MI



This workshop is supported in part by the Region V ITP Award #H160A000008 at the College of St. Catherine in partnership with SLICES.

Tel: 517-334-8000 T/V

- ♦ **PURPOSE:** As a part of the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing' goals, the annual Silent Retreat was started in 1987 to provide an opportunity for those with basic American sign language skills to improve their skills through full immersion in Deaf culture in a casual and relaxed setting. Various activities throughout the weekend allow participants a chance to expand their skills and awareness of Deaf culture and to interact with Deaf adults.
- ♦ **FOR WHOM:** Adults age 18 and older **who have completed one year or two ASL college courses or the equivalent**, including: 1) sign language students; 2) beginning interpreters; 3) Deaf or hard of hearing adults learning ASL; 4) parents of a Deaf/HH child; 5) professionals working with Deaf/HH people.

July 11-13, 2003
Roscommon, MI

Make \$150 check out to "State of Michigan" and mail to:

Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing
320 N. Washington Sq. Ste 250
Lansing, MI 48913

Phone: 877-499-6232 T/V
Fax: 517-334-6637
Email: dod@michigan.gov

2003 Silent Retreat Registration

Deadline: June 2, 2003



ASL Skill Level

- ☐ Intermediate
☐ Advanced
☐ Native-like

Saturday Dinner Choice

- ☐ Strip Steak
☐ Orange Roughy Fish
☐ Vegetarian

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
☐ Male ☐ Female

42 Hours of Signing in Silence and Fun!

Registration

- ♦ **REGISTRATION FEE:** \$150.00 Includes two nights in a comfortable setting (two persons per room), linens, extra blankets, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and one steak/fish dinner, snacks, beverages, instruction and practice, recreational activities. Bring personal items, swimsuit, clothes appropriate for both warm and cold weather, rain wear, flashlight, camera. **NO RADIOS OR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ALLOWED IN THE TOTALLY SILENT ENVIRONMENT.**
- ♦ **REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** June 2, 2003. No registration at the door. No refunds under any circumstance after June 2, 2003. Registration may be transferred to another participant with permission. SPACE IS LIMITED AND IS FILLED ON FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

Schedule

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Friday Evening Ice Breaker with Hors d'oeuvres
- Saturday Carousel of Signs and Culture presented by Deaf speakers
- Saturday afternoon recreational activities
- Saturday evening Steak and Fish barbecue and Silent Performance
- Sunday morning Deaf Club Experience



Details

RECREATION: Swimming/sunbathing in beautiful Higgins Lake, canoeing, rowboating, speed boat ride (tentative), horseshoes, shuffleboard, water and land volleyball, nature hikes, basketball, ping pong, foosball, pool tables.

CODE OF SILENCE: No vocalizing from Friday evening until Sunday noon. Beware! A **ten cents fine** for each spoken word. Fines are used for prizes.

SPONSORED BY: Family Independence Agency – **Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing** and this workshop is supported in part by the Region V ITP Award #H160A000008 at the College of St. Catherine in partnership with SLICES. DODHH Phone: 517-334-8000 T/V. This retreat is barrier free.

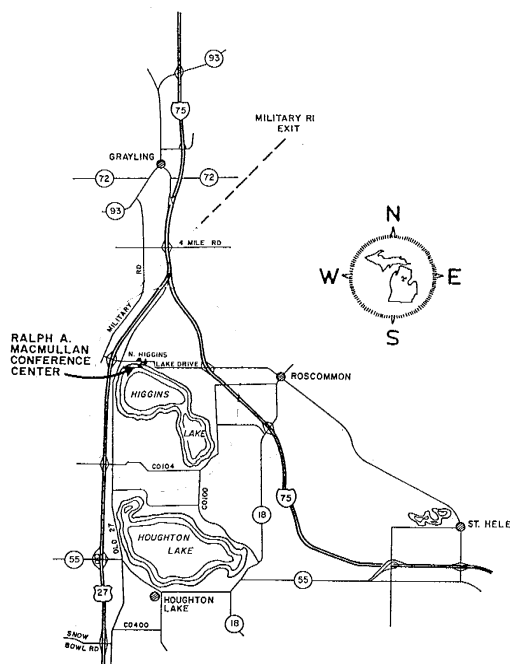
CONFIRMATION: Confirmation will be sent to the participants upon receipt of registration blank and payment. All must stay at the conference center (**no hotel or motel or campground**).

2003 Staff (Tentative): Chris Hunter, Maureen Wallace, David and Barbara Sanderson, Shirley McKenzie, Mary Klein, and Susie Parnes.

2003 Topics (Tentative): Medical Signs, Fingerspelling, ASL Linguistics, Aquatic Signs, Medical and Educational interpreting.

Michigan Quality Assurance Units: 15

Directions



DIRECTIONS: Go north on US-27 and exit at Military Road, go east. Follow the MacMullan Conference Center signs. The Center is on right. Or go north on I-75 and use Exit 244. Go west. Follow the signs. The Center is on left.

The Family Independence Agency will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to an FIA office in your county office.

DOT Aviation Consumer Disability Hotline

On August 5, 2002 the Department of Transportation's Aviation Consumer Disability toll-free Hotline became operational. The toll-free number for the Aviation Consumer Disability Hotline is 1-866-266-1368 (voice) and 1-866-754-4368 (TTY). Airline travelers with disabilities are encouraged to call the Hotline to obtain information and assistance if they experience disability-related air service problems.

For information on who to contact for key information, visit the following websites:

Aviation Consumer Protection Division disability complaint handling process

<http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/airconsumer/ACAAComplaint.htm>

Official form used to file an ACAA complaint alleging disability discrimination

<http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/airconsumer/forms382form.pdf>

DOT Fact Sheet on Protecting the Civil Rights of Air Travelers with Disabilities During Security Screening <http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/airconsumer/rules/20011029.htm>

Security Screening Advice for Passengers with Disabilities posted by TSA

http://tsa.gov/trav_consumers/tips_disabilities.shtm

You will find other helpful information at these sites including travel tips and a list of publications.

Michigan AT Loan Fund, Continued from pg 12

How do I apply?

To receive an application packet, be connected with an application center, or for further information please contact:

c/o UCP Michigan

3401 E. Saginaw, Suite 216
Lansing, MI 48912

1-800-828-2714 or 1-517-203-1200

Email: miatloanfund@aol.com

On the Web: www.mi-atlf.org

The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund is funded by:

- ✦ The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
- ✦ U.S. Department of Education
- ✦ The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation
- ✦ The Catholic Campaign for Human Development-Diocese of Lansing

Information adapted from Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund

2003 Calendar of Events

Feb 21	DODHH Advisory Council Meeting, Midway Inn – Lansing – 9:30 – 3:30
May	Better Hearing and Speech Month. See: www.asha.org/press
May 2	DODHH Advisory Council Meeting, Holiday Inn Express – Lansing – 9:30 – 3:30
June 22-26	Michigan Youth Leadership forum – MSU. See: www.mcdc-dodhh.org
June 22-27	Michigan Association for Deaf, Hearing & Speech Services Leadership Training School. See: www.madhs.org
June 26-29	Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) National Convention – See: www.shhh.org
July 11-13	DODHH Silent Retreat – Higgins Lake – See pages 13-14
July 27– Aug 1	RID National Conference – Chicago, IL – See: www.rid.org
Aug 21-24	Michigan Deaf Association (MDA) 2003 Conference – See: www.mideaf.org
Sept 11-14	Deafblind Workshop & Interpreter Training, DeSales Center – Brooklyn, MI
Sept 21-27	National Deaf Awareness Week
Oct 3	DODHH Advisory Council Meeting, Holiday Inn Express – Okemos – 9:30 – 3:30

Police Visor Card Enjoys Success

Since being introduced to the public in the spring of 2001, the police Communication Access Needs card - better known as police visor card - has been popular not only with Michigan residents but with deaf and hard of hearing people in other states as well. The card was produced as part of a deaf awareness training initiative to strengthen communication between police and people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The training program, which is statewide, has been endorsed by all major law enforcement associations in Michigan.



A training video, which was produced as part of the program, instructs police on how to communicate with a deaf or hard of hearing person and shows proper use of the visor card.

The Communication Access Needs cards are available at Secretary of State offices throughout the state. Several states have requested both the card and video and some are using the video to train police officers in their respective states.

Deaf or hard of hearing individuals who are interested in obtaining the cards can also contact the MCDC Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing toll-free at (877) 499-6232 voice/TTY, email DOD@michigan.gov or write to MCDC Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing, 320 N Washington Square, Suite 250, Lansing, MI, 48913.

The DODHH Bulletin is produced up to four times a year. Persons interested in deafness or hard of hearing may subscribe at no cost by contacting DODHH.

Opinions expressed in articles appearing in THE DODHH Bulletin are those of the author. Mention of goods and services does not mean DODHH endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

The Family Independence Agency will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to an FIA office in your county.

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Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Family Independence Agency
320 N Washington Square, Suite 250
Lansing, MI 48913

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